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STAND SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

That there will be an investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency and possibly a shakeup in the upper echelons appears almost inevitable in the wake of the abortive invasion attempt in Cuba, carried out by anti-Castro Cubans in exile in Florida and in Central America.

As one writer comments, if the CIA couldn't find out what was going on in Cuba, can it be expected to have accurate information on the endless world crises and near crises?

It is rather obvious, even to those unfamiliar with the "cloak-and-dagger" school of international espionage, that the motley "army" of Cuban exiles turned the Cuba invasion attempt into a fiasco of non-planning and stupidity. As far as the American public knows or can guess, there was no plan in the event that the invading forces met with consequential resistance. They simply melted away, were mowed down or taken prisoners. There's a strong suspicion that if Castro wasn't tipped off in advance he had uncanny foresight. Probably the greatest miscalculation was that the Cubans themselves would rise up and join the rebels. They didn't either from fear or choice.

The blow to such prestige as we have left in Latin America, or the world for that matter, has opened our eyes to the gravity of the situation—we hope. The Cuban affair was a failure, but we can't cry over spilt milk. We will understand better what to do next time.

Even as President Kennedy was forging national bi-partisan unity to deal with future crises, members of his own administration seized what they evidently thought to be a golden opportunity to pass the buck, alleging that the fault was with former President Eisenhower and the Republican administration. Mr. Kennedy will have none of these tactics and has, as is his obligation as chief executive, taken full responsibility for acquiescing in the invasion scheme.

A man of lesser character would not have done this. The President has now cracked down, ordering administration officials from cabinet rank down, to cut out their sniping.

The first chapter of the restoration of Cuba to the ranks of free and independent countries is closed. We have made costly mistakes, but they are not irreparable and it is time to move forward with courage, fortitude and unity.